

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A copyright protection method for adding copy control information to an information signal in association with contents which are protected under copyright is provided. In the method, attributive information representing the attribution of a predetermined apparatus is added to the information signal when the information signal is propagated via the apparatus. Then, the recording of the information signal is controlled on the basis of the copy control information and the attributive information. For example, even if the copy control information indicates that a copy is allowed since the information signal was propagated via a illegal path, the copy is forbidden since the attributive information indicates an attribution of an reproduction apparatus.